

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In the next twenty years Elkin will have experienced the forces of economic, social and cultural demands -- but more important, the physical development plan for Elkin must recognize all the needs and desires of this community. How much land will be needed to accommodate the population that can be expected to live in Elkin and within its planning area in the next twenty years? In what manner should the land be reserved for various uses? How should these uses be related to one another? These are vital questions which must be answered before plans can be formulated.

In addition to planning for the future citizens of Elkin, it is also important to evaluate present resources as to how well the current population's needs are being satisfied.

The most frequently used information directly applicable to comprehensive planning is a survey and an analysis of existing land use. Existing land use patterns are the most permanent elements of a town and its environs and, as such, the community is, to a degree, limited in the future use of land. A study of these existing patterns helps a municipality to determine how well various land uses have met the social and economic needs for which they were intended. Moreover, this reveals a realistic indication of the amount of land that will be needed for various functions in the future. The purpose of the following analysis is to provide corrective hindsight and organized foresight.

### METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

The objectives of this study were accomplished by:

- preparing a base map of the Planning Area
- conducting a detailed field survey to determine the type, location and amount of land uses in the Planning Area